

Press-Herald

GLENN W. PFEIL... Publisher
REID L. BUNDY... Managing Editor
Torrance, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 8, 1967

On Police Recruiting

Recruiting is always a challenge in any profession. The nation's industries, in an effort to secure the leaders which will be needed to operate and manage the complexities of technical and corporate affairs, send teams of recruiters into the colleges and universities to recruit the elite of the graduating classes. Many professional societies offer scholarships, job assurances, and other inducements to aid recruiting. Recruiting new police officers poses a tougher problem in many cases, however. And Torrance is feeling the pinch in that line, partly because of the desire of the city to enlist only those applicants who meet the most rigid physical and personality tests.

This is as it should be and it should not be relaxed in any manner.

One aid to recruiting which has been tried elsewhere and which could be a boon to Torrance however, should be considered seriously. That is the recruiting and qualifying of 18-year-old applicants who have completed their high school training and have expressed a desire to become police officers.

Sworn police officers must be 21 years of age. However, as an inducement to young men who have indicated they want to be police officers, the testing and qualifying of applicants before they reach the required age has an effect of holding many of them to their course.

Students get out of high school at 18 and are told they have to wait for three years before they can be considered for the police profession. Often they won't wait, veteran police officials have indicated.

An 18- or 19-year-old youth who qualifies through testing and examination for enlistment as a police officer could go on with temporary employment, could complete much of his military obligation, or go on to school taking police science and related courses until time for appointment.

Those candidates for appointment whose qualifications continued could begin the police training program when they reach 21 subject only to the meeting of physical standards.

It has been tried and reportedly is working well in many cities, and we believe Torrance should try it.

OTHERS SAY

Let the People Decide

Our esteemed eastern colleague, the Christian Science Monitor, notes with valid concern the recent election results which indicate clearly that partisan gerrymandering of political districts has largely nullified the intent of the Supreme Court's one man, one vote reapportionment edict.

It is difficult, as the Monitor points out, for politicians, whatever their party, to resist the temptation to assure "safe" districts by torturing the logical boundary lines. When the newspaper suggests, however, that redistricting should be placed in the hands of a commission of political science experts from various universities and colleges in order to insure impartiality, we regretfully part company.

Professors have a notably bad record as political advocates. The vocal activists—the kind that would most likely be appointed to such a commission—too often have a strong leftist coloration, and too great a faith in ideology as a solution for down to earth political problems.

What the gerrymander mess all really comes down to is that the only sound basis for any state's districting is the will of the people of that state. The only way the people now can regain that right is through passage of Senator Everett Dirksen's Reapportionment Amendment to the U. S. Constitution making very clear the right of the voters of each state to shape their own legislature to fit their own needs.

—California Feature Service.

The courts have been greatly concerned with justice for criminals of late, and as long as this does not extend into the ridiculous most citizens will agree such considerations are appropriate. But in the minds of many law officials and editors the process has been carried to the absurd. Too many instances are occurring when confessed murderers are set free (often to commit another crime) because of technicalities.—Carthage (Tenn.) Courier.

Margaret Mead, the anthropologist, has made an intriguing point on why some young folks behave the way they do... Calling on her years of experience, Miss Mead says it is ridiculous to think that dances and dress styles on today's young people indicate a change in the morals of youth alone. "The notion that college students do things without the active collusion of adults is nonsense," she says. Her words cause something of a shock, but they are worth pondering. Think hard about it. She just may have the right party squarely on target.—Ocala (Fla.) Star-Banner.

With the government taking care of everybody why is it necessary to have so many fund drives for charities. Surely the government isn't over-looking a chance to give something away?—Aztec (N.M.) Independent-Review.

The reason there are so many headaches is because pain always strikes the weakest point.—Len Sullivan, in the Mooreville (N.C.) Tribune.

One bachelor tells us that one reason they put men's faces on money is that women are content merely to have their hands on it.—J. L. Patton, in the Gouvie (Iowa) News.

Y'Gonna Send Me In, Coach?



JAMES DORAIS

Death of Ruby Adds New Chapter to U.S. Mystery

The death of Jack Ruby, his last minute recorded denial of involvement with Lee Harvey Oswald in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy, adds still another equivocal chapter to what is becoming one of the greatest mystery stories of all time.

Oddly, neither Ruby nor Oswald, important actors as they were in the tragic drama, are mentioned even by inference in a literary work dealing with the assassination which, though turned down by established publishing houses, is fast becoming an "underground" best seller. The book, "MacBird," is a satirical parody of MacBeth. It was written by Barbara Garson, a New Left leader in the first University of California at Berkeley student revolt a year ago.

MacBird is a brilliant piece of writing, occasionally very funny, and thoroughly vicious.

Virtually everyone gets his lumps. While the late President Kennedy is rather vaguely portrayed, Bobby Kennedy is pictured as a power hungry hypocrite who wins the stakes in the end. Teddy is written off as an idiot.

But the real savagery in MacBird is reserved for Lyndon Johnson. Explicitly, he is charged with masterminding the murder of his predecessor: "Lady MacBird," followed by her two daughters, walks through the White House rooms spraying aerosol bombs in an attempt to remove the smell of blood.

Ted Kennedy's airplane accident is portrayed as an attempt upon his life. News of the death of Adlai Stevenson, the "Egg of Head,"

is accompanied by reports of an alleged rumor that he was poisoned. MacBird will leave most readers with ambivalent feelings: admiration for the author's literary skill coupled with a sick feeling at the pit of the stomach. What can be the motivation for such a production?

Immediately following the news of the assassination, many prominent Americans publicly jumped to the conclusion that the murder was a "rightist plot," a conclusion quickly made untenable by the revelation that the assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was a Marxist who had once citizenship and defected to

renounced his American Russia. Like MacBird's author, Oswald was a member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which soon quietly disbanded.

MacBird is an attempt to undo the damaging effect to leftist causes of Oswald's act by promoting the monstrous rumor that the assassination really was plotted by President Johnson. The very leftists who made a rallying cry of the word "McCarthyism" to describe political attacks upon them as Communists are perfectly willing to employ the same tactics in leveling the far worse and far more unfounded charge of murder against their political enemies today.

We Quote...

Professional progressives may yet regret that they have tried to teach a whole generation to hate in the name of love and be violent in the name of peace.—Charles McCabe, former author of the Press-Herald's "Fearless Spectator" column.

Much as I regret the resurgence of Republicans, it is good for the country in the long run. It's important to have a two party system.—Roger Kent, former State Democratic leader.

By now it must be clear to most everyone that the New Left Movement is the very opposite of everything intellectual; its followers are intolerant, hostile, egocentric, subversive, and profoundly subjective.—Dr. William L. Harr, Sacramento.

Once you've tasted cham-

Morning Report:

In a country where capitalism is a capital offense, I suppose Buel Wortham may consider himself lucky. All he got was 70 days of solitary and three years in a labor camp. After all, he did nick the Russian government for \$375 — \$75 in black market money and \$300 by lifting a souvenir from a Leningrad hotel.

Our State Department only protested. But if one of our Embassy staff in Moscow is arrested, we quickly arrest one of theirs in Washington. Then the guys are swapped.

Can't we find a well-behaved and likable Russian tourist who has had one too many and then drops a cigaret butt on the sidewalk? Drunkenness and littering. Three years in the bucket — or Mr. Wortham, if you please.

Abe Mellinkoff

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Around-the-World Trip Is Shortened by Cancer

Of human interest: It was one of the nicest, freshest and happiest news stories of the year, involving three nice, fresh, happy young French people: Writer Alain Herve, his wife, Anne, and their cousin, Engineer Bernard Pichard.

In July, 1964, after making elaborate preparations (they even had appendectomies), they set sail down the Seine from their native Paris for a round-the-world cruise on the ketch, "Adventure," the boat they bought with their pooled resources. Last month, after two and a half years and 18,000 miles of wandering the waters of the world, they dropped anchor in San Francisco Bay, at Sausalito.

Here, their plans were definite: they would sell the "Adventure," buy a car, cross the United States, and then return to Paris—back to their jobs. Meanwhile, Alain, Anne and Bernard would sell, at the Horizons Gallery in Sausalito, the various artifacts they had picked up on the cruise.

But suddenly, everything has changed. Bernard has been trying to sell the boat and the artifacts. But Alain and Anne have flown back to Paris. Before leaving, Anne went to a doctor here about a swelling caused by a fall aboard the "Adventure," and the vague fears she felt were all too sadly true. Cancer.

Russia's Anatoli Gromyko, son of Andrei, dined at Alexis' the other night and insisted on California wine "because I have heard so much about it." Alexis produced a bottle of what he considers our best, Inglenook's Pinot Noir, and waited anxiously for the verdict. "Very good," nodded Anatoli after gurgling it carefully. "It compares favorably with the best—"

San Francisco

"French?" hoped Alexis. "With the best Georgian wine," finished Gromyko!

Add infinites: Re the youngsters, we all know about teenyboppers and their escorts (beanytoppers) but I'm indebted to one of my readers for the intelligence that a baby is a bonnytopper, a wig is a glamorhammer, a song with lots of bong is a stompy-whomper, a solitary drinker is a surlyopper, a cad is a bunnydropper, a parent is a mommypooper, a bon mot that shuts up the old man is a poppystopper, a get-away car is a squealywheeler and "Runnycopper" means "The fuzzi, let's buzz!" And people who record these things are, I suppose, cornypoopers...

During the last heat wave, San Franciscans kept talking nervously about "earthquake weather," to which I

kept replying nervously that there's no such thing. Confirmation from Dr. Thomas V. McEvilly of the University of California's Seismograph Lab: "Earthquake weather is the weather that happens to prevail on the day an earthquake occurs. There is no other connection." I should add that Dr. McEvilly said this quite innocently... I also keep hearing from people who want me to tip them off to "a good, cheap restaurant." Like earthquake weather, no such thing. There are good expensive restaurants and bad inexpensive restaurants and good-bad medium priced restaurants but only bad cheap restaurants because good food requires good ingredients and they cost money. Additionally, don't be surprised if sometimes you get a bad dish in a three-star de luxe eating place. Explains a chef: "All our food is made to order—hand-tailored, as it were. Naturally, it hardly ever comes out the same way twice. If you expect your food to taste the same every time, buy frozen TV dinners."

At a doggie diner the other night a well-known queen was thrown out. Drawing himself up and placing his hand firmly on his hip, he pouted to the mgr.: "IS THIS the way you treat royalty???"

ROYCE BRIER

Ralph Nader Takes On The Corporate Economy

About a year ago a lawyer named Ralph Nader fluttered the American industrial world by insisting automobiles as manufactured today are unsafe.

At the time it was suggested in this column that while Mr. Nader had a point here and there, the fundamental enemy of automobile safety is the goofy driver. This was of course a personal opinion you could take or leave, as the matter is incapable of proof.

Notwithstanding, Nader was a factor in the national automobile safety legislation, which has been protested by some of the manufacturers.

Now Mr. Nader has abandoned hunting lions and is taking on elephants, to wit, the whole American corporate economy. He told the National Press Club the country is in need of "cor-

porate reform," and he proposed a national commission to make a study to that end. As this touches the lives of all 196 million Americans, you can't accuse Mr. Nader of thinking small.

But you might accuse him of thinking backward, when he thinks a commission could solve the gargantuan problem he poses.

World Affairs

All commissions must function for 10 years to get up steam; it's the way that machinery works. Then it must issue a million-word report read only by a few congressional committeemen, who whip it around for another 10 years and do nothing. Besides, in this special case, a commission, to be impartial and avoid conflict of interest, would have

to consist entirely of Eskimos and Laplanders.

But that's collateral matter. On the central idea, Nader said: "Unless the challenge of corporation reform is undertaken, this country will be heading toward a choice between a corporate state and a socialist state. Present indications are the winner will be the corporate state."

Will Mr. Nader define "corporate state"? You recall Mussolini had something he called that, but you know how confused he was.

Nader said our life is being shaped by what we do about "corporate pollution" of air, water and soil, about "corporate misallocation of resources." He spoke of the "deadening conformity of monopolistic power centers—be they private or governmental."

Unhappily this is the jargon of economic thinkers everywhere, dealing in generalities lacking in direction. For instance, say corporations pollute half the air with smokestacks, and individuals pollute the other half with motor vehicles. Hand it to a commission to work out the percentages—nobody else has.

Nader believes corporations should be more democratic internally — "stified men are walking around corporate halls in invisible chains." You see, it's the office boy syndrome. But alas, office boys too often become corporation presidents, unstified presumably.

Nader has overlooked nothing in our corporate life, except that corporations are composed of people, and can't be any better than people. As for "monopolistic power centers" (Government) — let's have the commission ask the government to reform that, eh?

Mr. Nader has assigned himself an elephantine task, and won't solve it with a speech, or a book.

WILLIAM HOGAN

'Big Man' Is Top Sports Story by Stanford Prof

Brief Mention: "Big Man," a fairly short novel by Jay Neugeboren, appeared from Houghton Mifflin a few months ago and was generally overlooked. A couple of people have mentioned it as one of the best sports stories they had read in some time. Actually, it is not merely a sports story but a biting comment on some of the social ills that have caught up with the amateur games we people play.

This is a story of college basketball in which, during the early 1950s, some players were discovered to have cooperated with gamblers to rig the games by controlling points during the fast action. There was much "Say it isn't so, Joe" wailing among loyal fans, of course. But what of the young victims, usually expelled from the schools involved, who were launched into adult life with two strikes (or at least missed baskets) against them?

Neugeboren's book investigates this question as an All-American player from Harlem narrates his experiences in this unsavory business some years after the

fact. It is a very good job, both a moving and in a sense funny work of fiction with several memorable scenes, believable characterization, much basketball and some pointed observations on a culture that will offer such fiscal opportunities to "dump" or "shave points" in the amateur arena. The author is presently a member of the Eng-

lish Department faculty at Stanford University.

"Hallelujah Anyway," Kenneth Patchen's first collection of picture-poems, has been introduced by New Directions (clothbound; \$7.50). The publisher explains: "The fusion of art and poetry is particularly timely in the light of heightened awareness of mixed media simulated by Marshall McLuhan's thesis, 'the medium is the message.'"

"The blending of two parts in 'Hallelujah Anyway' gives us an intensification and an enlargement of the poetic process — an extra dimen-

sion. Patchen does not write a poem and then draw a picture to go with it, but has created two simultaneous experiences..." Patchen has published 29 volumes of prose and verse.

Two San Jose State college psychologists have written what is probably the most specialized book to appear in recent weeks, "Problem Athletes and How to Handle Them" (Track and Field News, Inc., Palo Alto, Calif.). Athletic coaches cooperate with the scholars, Bruce Ogilvie and Thomas A. Tutko, by making their teams available for studies. Sample chapters: "The Athlete Who Resists Coaching," "The Con Man," "Success Phobia" and "The Depression-Prone Athlete."

Represented in "The Best American Short Stories 1966" are Herbert Wilner, Mary Hedin, William Maxwell, Shirley Ann Grau and posthumous work by Faulkner, Shirley Jackson, Flannery O'Connor. Edited by Martha Foley, this is the annual initiated in 1915 by the late Edward J. O'Brien (Houghton Mifflin; \$6).

